

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 CU-02 AID-05 SNM-02 /097 W

----- 115452

R 270908Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 190

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSOL UDORN BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #32

1. HIGH LEVEL TRAVEL (UNCLAS)

FOREIGN MINISTER HLA PHONE CONCLUDED THE SECOND HALF OF HIS TWO PART TRIP TO THE PRC AND LEFT FOR LIMA AUGUST 21. NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS VISIT HAS BEEN REPORTED. MEANWHILE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER U LWIN DEPARTED

AUGUST 22 FOR THE IBRD/IMF ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON. HE WILL VISIT STOCKHOLM ENROUTE REPORTEDLY TO PROMOTE SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED IMF/IBRD CONSULTATIVE AID GROUP FOR BURMA.

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2. PAKISTAN SPECIAL ENVOY (UNCLAS)

PAKISTAN SPECIAL ENVOY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER MUMTAZ ALI BHUTTO CONCLUDED THREE DAY VISIT TO RANGOON AUGUST 22 DURING WHICH HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT NE WIN, PRIME MINISTER SEIN WIN AND OTHER TOP GUB OFFICIALS. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS NOT DISCLOSED AND MFA SOURCE DENIES THAT BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENTS PROMPTED TRIP. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT PAKISTAN MAY BE SEEKING BURMA'S SUPPORT FOR ITS BID FOR A SEAT ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. DUNG BEETLES AND CIGARETTE BOXES (LOU)

PRESS REPORTS STRAIGHTFACEDLY THAT EXPORT-IMPORT CORPORATION RECEIVED PURCHASE ORDERS FOR 100 DUNG BEETLES FROM JAPANESE LABORATORY AND 500 LACQUER CIGARETTE BOXES FROM WEST GERMAN IMPORTER. ORDERS PASSED ON TO APPROPRIATE TRADE CORPORATIONS WHICH SIMPLY REPLIED THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO MEED THE DEMANDS.

COMMENT: DUNG BEETLES MAY SOON JOIN THE EXTENSIVE LIST OF OTHER LOCAL PRODUCTS (ROM OPIUM TO ELEPHANTS) WHICH ARE BRISKLY EXPORTED THROUGH BURMA'S THRIVING BLACK MARKET. IT ALSO DEMONSTRATES GUB'S INABILITY TO COPE WITH ANY TRADE MATTER OUT OF THE ROUTINE.

4. OIL DEVELOPMENTS (LOU)

MARTABAN CITIES SERVICE AUGUST 21 SPUDDED ITS SECOND WELL IN GULF OF SJARTABAN. AT LAST REPORT DRILLING HAD REACHED 700 FEET. SOME SURFACE GAS ENCOUNTERED AND GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS CONSIDERED MORE PROMISING THAN IN FIRST CITIES SERVICE WELL, WHICH WAS TERMINATED AS A "DRY HOLE" AT 13,030 FEET.

5. NEW SQUEEZE ON KYAT EXPENDITURES? (UNCLAS)

THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS IN THE PAST MONTH THAT THE GUB MAY AGAIN BE ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT KYAT EXPENDITURES OF FOREIGN MISSIONS IN RANGOON. IN JULY, TRADE CORPORATION 15 ADVISED THAT EMBASSY CEMENT PURCHASES SHOULD BE MADE IN DOLLARS RATHER THAN KYAT AND IN THE PAST WEEK TRADE CORPORATIONS DEALING WITH PLYWOOD AND BEVERAGES HAVE TAKEN THE SAME LINE. EMBASSY BROUGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MFA THE PROVISIONS FOR KYAT EXPENDITURES FROM USG ACCOUNTS IN BURMA UNDER THE THREE PL-480 AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND TRADE CORPORATION 15 SUBSEQUENTLY REVERSED ITS POSITION. EMBASSY IS TAKING THE LATEST CASES TO MFA TO SEEK A SIMILAR SOLUTION.

6. NARCOTICS: SEIZURE (UNCLAS)

RECENT NEWS ARTICLE NOTED 30,000 KYAT (\$1,500 AT BLACK MARKET RATES) WORTH OF NUMBER FOUR HEROIN SEIZED IN NAMKHAN. THE POSSESSOR, A KNOWN TRAFFICKER, WAS ARRESTED. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THIS CASE IS FACT THAT HEROIN WAS IN "WILD HORSE" AND "LION WORLD" BRAND PACKETS, WHICH MEANS THAT CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF PROCESSED AND PACKAGED HEROIN INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR OTHER EXTERNAL MARKETS ARE BACKING INTO BURMA FROM BORDER REFINERIES AS FAR AS NAMKHAM NEAR THE KACHIN, SHAN STATE AND PRC BORDER.

7. NARCOTICS: STATUS OF HELICOPTERS (LOU)

THREE OF THE USG SUPPLIED BELL HELICOPTERS CONTINUE IN TRAINING EXERCISES. ONE IS GROUNDED DUE TO A TRANSMISSION PROBLEM AND IS AWAITING THE NECESSARY SPARES DUE TO ARRIVE WITH THE REMAINING TWO HELICOPTERS. DURING PILOT TRAINING, TAIL ROTOR ON ANOTHER OF THE BELLS WAS DAMAGED BUT REPAIRED OUT OF STOCKS ON HAND. MEANTIME, BELL TECHREP CONTINUES TO URGE GUB TO OPEN CREDIT LINE WITH HELO-ORIENT OR SIMILAR SUPPLIER TO ENSURE CONTINUING SUPPLY OF NORMAL EXPENDABLE REPLACEMENT PARTS.
HOWARTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, PETROLEUM, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RANGOO02439
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750298-0061
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750813/aaaaalek.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT WEEKA #32
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM, PK, SW, US, PE, CH, (U LWIN), (BHUTTO, MUMTAZ ALI), (U HLA PHONE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006